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REMARKS

I. Status Of The Application

Claims 1, 3-13, and 30-35 were pending in the application as of the date of the Office Action. Claims 14-29 were previously withdrawn. In the Office Action the Examiner:

1. Rejected Claims 1, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bernstein, et al.;
2. Rejected Claims 3-10, 13, 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernstein, et al.; and
3. Noted that Applicants' arguments previously filed were fully considered but were deemed not persuasive with respect to claims 1 & 3-13.

In a telephonic interview conducted on January 24, 2007, the Examiner agreed to consider amended draft claims 1 & 30. The draft claims were faxed to the Examiner on January 30, 2007. On March 6, 2007, the Examiner informed the undersigned that the Applicants would be allowed to reassert the method claims that were previously withdrawn if the method claims incorporated the limitations of the draft claims 1 & 30 that were faxed to the Examiner on January 30, 2007.

In this response, in accordance with the discussions with the Examiner, Applicants have reasserted method claims 14-29, cancelled claims 1-13, 24 and 30,¹ and amended the method claims to incorporate the limitations of the draft claims 1 & 30. Thus, claims 14-23, 25-29, and 31-35 are pending in this application. Applicants note that the amended claims include no new matter and that support for the amendments is found in the original specification.

¹ Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications on cancelled apparatus claims.

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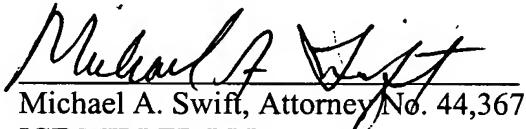
CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for her help on this file. It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a patentable contribution to the art and that this response places the above identified application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance for this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully petition for a one month extension of time to submit this response and authorize the one month extension of time fee of \$60.00 be charged to deposit account no. 09-0007. In the event Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need to petition for any additional extension of time or pay a fee, Applicants conditionally petition therefore and authorize any fee deficiency to be charged to deposit account no. 09-0007.

Respectfully submitted,

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